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NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN  
36TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

January 26, 2010

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Janet:

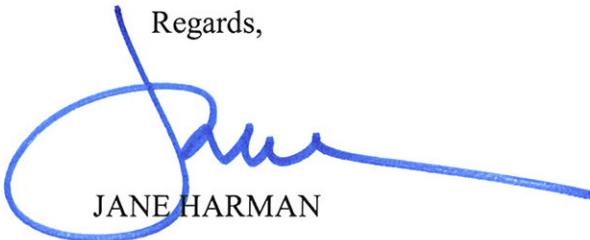
The Christmas Day plot has appropriately focused our attention on the need for a much more agile and proactive system of intelligence and technology. I recently toured LAX to update myself on the screening technology in place since your visit nearly a year ago. As you know, this airport is a top terror target. It has been attacked in the past and I want to ensure that does not happen again. It is one of the busiest destination and transfer airports in the world, serving almost 60 million passengers last year.

Since you visited, LAX has begun work on the new in-line baggage screening system we were briefed on, and hopes to expand its full body imaging capability. I understand that TSA has ordered 150 full body imaging scanners to be installed this year and has funding for an additional 300. Rapiscan, a company in my district, is capable of expediting production of full body scanners. They are confident that their backscatter x-ray technology (which is not currently deployed at LAX) would have detected the PETN explosives concealed by Abdulmutallab last month.

I urge you to expedite installation of scanning machines in key airports. The ability to scan individuals, with significant privacy protections in place, is a critical security layer. Using threat information and intelligence to focus the use of this technology, incorporated with others like trace detection, highly-trained behavior detection officers, and expanded use of bomb-sniffing canines will better protect airport employees and the flying public.

If you need additional funds, I am ready to help. I look forward to discussing this issue as soon as possible.

Regards,



JANE HARMAN

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